1	2	3
39.	IMPORTSHOP Berlin (Germany) March, 1998.	Apparels home textiles, leather goods, accessories, travel goods, pieces of furniture, carpets, basketry, ceramics, glass, chinaware, jewelley.
40.	TCF-International Textile Clothing Footwear and Fashion Accessories, Melbourne (Australia) March 31-April 2, 1998.	Textiles, clothing, footwear, leather goods and fashions accessories.
41.	2nd SAARC Trade Fair Lahore, Pakistan	Multi products

(As on 1.05.1997)

[English]

Production of Mini Cigarettes by MNCs

*494. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that production of mini cigarettes manufactured by multinational companies have increased manifold resulting in danger to the livelihood of unorganised bidi workers and the profit earned therefrom have been repatriated to other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to keep a check on mini cigarette producing multinational companies keeping in view the interest of bidi industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The production of mini cigarettes (i.e. nonfilter cigarettes with length not exceeding 60mm) has gone up during the last three years. However, as the incidence of excise duty on such cigarettes is substantially higher than that of bidis, it is unlikely that the production of mini cigarettes would have an adverse effect on the bidi industry.

Data regarding profits earned by cigarette manufacturers on mini cigarettes and repatriation of profits is not centrally maintained.

(c) to (e) As stated above, appropriate fiscal disincentives already exist in as much as there is a substantial differential between the rates of excise duty on mini cigarettes and bidis. In the Union Budget for 1997-98, the excise duty on mini cigarettes has been raised from Rs. 75 per thousand to Rs. 90 per thousand.

Illegal mining of coal

*495. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether illegal mining of coal from the coal mines of Bihar and other States has been going on resulting in loss of crores of rupees;

(b) whether there is any connivance of police and the higher officials of coalfields in illegal mining and the coal mafia is flourishing particularly in Bihar; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government to check illegal mining of coal and to wipe out the coal mafia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Sporadic incidents of illegal coal mining have been taking place in some mines of the Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL), Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) and Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) in Bihar. Since illegal mining of sporadic in nature it is very difficult to measure its value and quantity.

(b) No, Sir. No incident of any connivance between the police and the higher officials of coalfields in illegal mining has been reported to the Government.

(c) Illegal mining violates the provisions of Section 3(1) (a) of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 and section 4(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957. Moreover, illegal mining is punishable under Section 30(1) of the Nationalisation Act and Section 21(1) of the MMRD Act.

The following steps are taken by the nationalised coal companies to stop illegal mining.

(i) covering the exposed coal faces in unused opencast mines with debris;

(ii) round the clock patrolling by the security force of the company and the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

(iii) surprise check or raids by company security force and CISF;

(iv) blacklisting the trucks seized during the surprise checks or raids;